

## 2026 Alstead Warrant Articles and Information

### Article 01 Election of Officers

To choose all necessary Town Officers for the ensuing year.

#### Article 01 Additional Information about the Election on March 10, 2026 – Draft Ballot

**Moderator** – (2 year term) – Vote for not more than 1

Susan E. Norlander – Incumbent

Lisa Orten

Write-in: \_\_\_\_\_

**Selectboard** – (3 Year Term) – Vote for not more than 1

David J. Hogan

Gordon Kemp – Incumbent Vice Chair

Write-in: \_\_\_\_\_

**Supervisors of the Checklist** – (6 Year Term) – Vote for not more than 1

Barbara (Bobbie) Wilson – Incumbent Chair

Write-in: \_\_\_\_\_

**Cemetery Commission** – (3 Year Term) – Vote for not more than 1

Joseph H. Cartwright

Mark Danahy (currently interim Cemetery Commission Chair)

Mary Ann Wolf

Write-in: \_\_\_\_\_

**Cemetery Commission** – (1 Year Term) – Vote for not more than 1

Melanie Marsden

David C. Miller

Write-in: \_\_\_\_\_

**Library Trustees** – (3 Year Term) – Vote for not more than 2

James H. Gordon

Joy Nalevanko

Katharine Torrey – Incumbent Vice Chair

Judith Willis – Incumbent

Write-in: \_\_\_\_\_

Write-in: \_\_\_\_\_

**Treasurer** – (3 Year Term) – Vote for not more than 1

Alexander Nalevanko

Write-in: \_\_\_\_\_

**Trustees of the Trust Funds** – (3 Year Term) – Vote for not more than 1

Mark Danahy (currently interim Trustees of the Trust Funds Chair)

Mary Ann Wolf

Write-in: \_\_\_\_\_

**Trustees of the Trust Funds** – (1 Year Term) – Vote for not more than 1

Melanie Marsden

David C. Miller

Write-in: \_\_\_\_\_

## 2026 Alstead Warrant Articles and Information

### Warrant Article Basic Information

Most importantly, if any of the following Warrant Articles has a “**Tax Impact**”, it means that the cost of this Warrant Article, if it passes on March 10<sup>th</sup>, will be added to your property tax bills, half of the cost to the June 2026 bill and the other half of the cost to the December 2026 bill. Also note that any money not spent on the purchase described in any Warrant Article with a **Tax Impact** that passes, will roll forward into the “unassigned fund balance” (UFB) for the following year.

### The 4% Cap mandate

Last year, the Town raised \$1,587,739 in new taxes. This year, if all the **Warrant Articles** with a **Tax Impact** pass on March 10<sup>th</sup>, the Town will raise \$1,650,663. This is a **3.963%** increase over last year, which means that none of the **Warrant Articles** with a **Tax Impact** on the ballot need a Super-Majority (3/5 or 60% majority) to pass.

**Articles 02, 03 & 04** are from the Planning Board, and pertain to the Alstead Zoning Ordinance (AZO). There is a link to the full AZO on the Alstead Town Website ([alsteadnh.org](http://alsteadnh.org)) Home / Boards and Commissions / Zoning Board of Adjustment / Alstead Zoning Ordinance

### Article 02 Adoption of Proposed Zoning Amendment No. 1

Are you in favor of the adoption of Amendment No. 1 as proposed by the Alstead Planning Board to amend the Town’s Zoning Ordinance as follows: Updates the ordinance to conform with 2025 state law changes (RSA 674:71-73) by allowing one attached or detached Accessory Dwelling Unit (ADU) by right on lots with single-family dwellings and adding associated definitions and regulations. This article is recommended by the Planning Board. (Majority vote required)

### Article 02 Additional Information about Proposed Zoning Amendment No. 1 – ADUs

This amendment brings the Alstead Zoning Ordinance (AZO) into compliance with the 2025 revisions to New Hampshire RSA 674:71 through :73, which require municipalities to allow one accessory dwelling unit as a matter of right in any zoning district that permits single-family dwellings.

1. **Amend AZO Article II (Definitions)** by adding the following:

**Accessory Dwelling Unit (ADU):** A residential living unit located on a lot containing a single-family dwelling that provides independent living facilities for one or more persons, including provisions for sleeping, eating, cooking, and sanitation, on the same parcel as the principal dwelling. An ADU may be attached or detached.

2. **Amend AZO Article III, Section C (Table of Allowable Uses)** to add: “Accessory Dwelling Unit (attached or detached)” as an **Allowable Use (A)** in all districts where single-family dwellings are permitted.
3. **Amend AZO Article IV, Section B (Principal Residential Buildings)** by deleting the current language on detached dwelling units and replacing it with:  
**One ADU**, either attached or detached, is permitted by right on any lot containing a single-family dwelling in any zoning district. The maximum size of an ADU shall be 950 square feet of living space. ADUs shall comply with all requirements applicable to single-family dwellings in the district, but no additional lot size, frontage, setback, or design requirements may be imposed beyond those required for the principal dwelling. The property owner must occupy either the principal dwelling or the ADU as their principal residence. The addition of an ADU shall not reclassify the original single-family dwelling nor the ADU as a two-family dwelling.

## 2026 Alstead Warrant Articles and Information

### **Article 03 Adoption of Proposed Zoning Amendment No. 2**

Are you in favor of the adoption of Amendment No.2 as proposed by the Alstead Planning Board for the Town's Zoning Ordinance as follows: Replaces "roadside produce stand for sale of products grown on-premises" with "Roadside Farm Stand" and adds associated definitions and regulations. This article is recommended by the Planning Board. (Majority vote required)

### **Article 03 Additional Information about Proposed Zoning Amendment No. 2 – Farm Stands**

This amendment updates terminology in the Alstead Zoning Ordinance (AZO) and harmonizes local standards with state law (RSA 21:34-a) governing agricultural operations and roadside sales. It replaces "roadside produce stand for sale of products grown on-premises" in **AZO Article III-C, Table of Allowable Uses**, with "Roadside Farm Stand", and adds a new definition to **AZO Article II (Definitions)**:

1. **Amend AZO Article II (Definitions)** by adding the following:

**Roadside Farm Stand:** A structure not exceeding 200 square feet of floor area, used for the sale of food and farm-related products. A majority of products offered for sale shall be food products. Sales must comply with **RSA 21:34-a**. Roadside farm stands are considered agricultural in nature and are intended to support local and regional agriculture while maintaining a small scale consistent with neighborhood and rural character.

2. **Amend AZO Article III, Section C (Table of Allowable Uses)** to replace "Roadside Produce Stand for sale of products grown on-premises" with "Roadside Farm Stand" as an **Allowable Use (A)** in all districts.

### **Article 04 Adoption of Proposed Zoning Amendment No. 3**

Are you in favor of the adoption of Amendment No.3 as proposed by the Alstead Planning Board for the Town's Zoning Ordinance as follows: Amend Article IV, Section E by changing the requirement shown in the table for "Residential" from "2 per Dwelling Unit" to "1 per Dwelling Unit." This article is recommended by the Planning Board. (Majority vote required)

### **Article 04 Additional Information about Proposed Zoning Amendment No. 3 – Parking Spaces**

This amendment brings the Alstead Zoning Ordinance (AZO) into compliance with the 2025 revision to New Hampshire RSA 674:16, VII, which prohibits municipal zoning ordinances from requiring more than one residential parking space per unit.

**Amend AZO Article IV, Section E Off-Street Parking** by changing the requirement shown in the table for "Residential" from "2 per Dwelling Unit" to "1 per Dwelling Unit."

### **Article 05 Operating Budget**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate as an operating budget, not including appropriations by special warrant articles and other appropriations voted separately, the amounts set forth on the budget posted with the warrant or as amended by vote of the first session, for the purposes set forth therein, totaling \$2,257,565. Should this article be defeated, the default budget shall be \$2,138,431, which is the same as last year, with certain adjustments required by previous action of the Town of Alstead or by law; or the governing body may hold one special meeting, in accordance with RSA 40:13, X and XVI, to take up the issue of a revised operating budget only. This article is recommended by the Select Board (3 yes - 0 no). (Majority Vote Required) (**Tax Impact: \$4.24 per \$1,000**)

## 2026 Alstead Warrant Articles and Information

### **Article 05 Additional Information about the Operating Budget – Tax calculations**

We have a budget every year, so the real question is “How much more expensive is it than last year’s budget?” Last year’s town budget was **\$2,160,742** compared to this proposed budget of **\$2,257,565**. This is an increase of **\$96,832 (4%)** over last year. The tax impact of just the increase from last year is 32 cents per \$1,000. For example, if your home and property are assessed at \$225,000, the tax impact is  $225 \times .32$ , which is an additional \$72.00 on your property tax bill for the year. The \$72 would be split across the two bills, which is an additional \$36 on your June of 2026 bill and an additional \$36 on your December of 2026 bill. Using this calculation, the full cost of Article 05 is  $225 \times 4.24$ .

### **Article 06 Paving Thayer Brook Road**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$430,000 for the purpose of paving portions of Thayer Brook Road, Corbin Road, and Rhoades Road. \$430,000 of said funds to come from unassigned fund balance. This article is recommended by the Select Board (3 yes – 0 no). (Majority Vote Required) (No amount to be raised from new taxation)

### **Article 06 Additional Information about Paving Thayer Brook Road – Also pave aprons**

These funds will pave almost all of Thayer Brook Road, except for the bypass and washed out bridge area. Aprons onto both Corbin Road and Rhoades Road will also be paved. Aprons are an important consideration for traffic safety. Without aprons, the road grader must grade the unpaved road up to the connecting paved street, creating a traffic safety issue when the grader must turn around. Aprons also provide a smoother transition, when driving from a paved road onto an unpaved road.

### **Article 07 Replace Thayer Brook Bridge**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$300,000 for the purpose of replacing the bridge on Thayer Brook Road that was destroyed in the 2023 flooding, and to authorize the withdrawal of \$120,000 from the Bridge Capital Reserve Fund created for that purpose, and \$180,000 to come from FEMA disaster reimbursement funds. This article is recommended by the Select Board (3 yes - 0 no). (Majority Vote Required) (No amount to be raised from new taxation)

### **Article 07 Additional Information about replacing Thayer Brook Bridge – The FEMA money**

If/when the town receives the \$180,000 from FEMA, we will first decide if the bridge needs to be expanded to mitigate this problem. The bridge should probably be expanded, but even with FEMA funding, we only have enough to rebuild it to its pre-2023 condition. Once the bridge is rebuilt and operational, we will remove all evidence of the bypass.

### **The Purpose of Capital Reserve Funds (CRF)**

Capital Reserve Funds are used to save money for capital improvement expenses (at least \$10,000). The voters must approve withdrawal of these funds at a town meeting, unless “Agents to Expend” (AtE) have been previously authorized for that particular CRF. In that case, a Public Hearing will be properly notified and held prior to any withdrawal from any CRF. Please also note that the “Current Value” of the fund is just the Principal plus the Income. It does not include the Unrealized Gain/Loss, which fluctuates with the stock market. We invest capital reserve funds in various assets, including stocks and bonds. Both of those asset classes fluctuate in value after we've invested the funds. This results in investment gains or losses on paper, also known as unrealized gains or losses. We sell those investments when we withdraw reserve funds for use, and it's at that point that the gains or losses become realized. This is the same as having equity in a house. Your house may be worth a lot more on paper than what you paid for it, but that's an unrealized gain until someone actually buys your house at that price.

## 2026 Alstead Warrant Articles and Information

### **Article 08 Create Reappraisal Capital Reserve Fund**

To see if the town will vote to establish a Reappraisal Capital Reserve Fund under the provisions of RSA 35:1 for the purpose of funding a reappraisal of the real estate in such town for tax assessment purposes, and to raise and appropriate the sum of \$7000 to be placed in this fund. This article is recommended by the Select Board (3 yes - 0 no). (Majority Vote Required) (**Tax Impact:** 2 cents per \$1,000)

### **Article 08 Additional Information about the Reappraisal CRF**

The plan for this new Capital Reserve Fund is to pay for the spike in appraisal cost every 5 years, when the results of 4 years of site visits are collated into new valuations. The current appraisers cost us \$8,000 for their work this year (2026) and will cost some amount less than \$10,000 for each subsequent year up to and including 2029. In 2030, however, we will have to pay the appraisers an estimated \$35,000. This CRF is to pay that “every 5<sup>th</sup> year spike.” These reappraisals are mandatory under state law.

### **Article 09 Create Fuel Station Capital Reserve Fund**

To see if the town will vote to establish a Fuel Station CRF under the provisions of RSA 35:1 for the purpose of purchasing, upgrading, or replacing in part or in whole, the Fuel Station at the DPW garage, and to raise and appropriate the sum of \$500 to be placed in this fund. This article is recommended by the Select Board (3 yes - 0 no). (Majority Vote Required) (**Tax Impact:** less than 1 cent (\$0.0016) per \$1,000)

### **Article 09 Additional Information about the Fuel Station CRF – Upgrade the DPW Fuel Station**

The town needs to upgrade the Fuel Station at the Department of Public Works (DPW) facility to better track the consumption of fuel for our Town vehicles. For the current fuel station, the technology is antiquated to the point that eBay is running out of replacement parts. The upgraded station will track individual users via computer, unlike today. This will allow us to track fuel usage for each department. The money in this fund can only be spent on the replacement, upgrade, or repair of the fuel station at the DPW, 596 Forest Road.

### **Article 10 Add to Dam Capital Reserve Fund**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$50,000 to be added to the Dam Capital Reserve Fund previously established in 2025. (Majority Vote Required) This article is recommended by the Select Board (3 yes - 0 no) (**Tax Impact:** 16 cents per \$1,000)

### **Article 10 Additional Information about the Dam CRF – Mitigate the High Hazard designation**

Both Town-owned dams (Lake Warren and Vilas Pool) are currently considered High Hazard by the NH Dam Bureau. This means that they both get inspected once per year and the Town is charged a \$3,000 per year fee. The town must show movement each year towards the goal of correcting the issues pointed out in the letters of deficiency that the NH Dam Bureau provides. The money in this fund is used to mitigate problems with the dams. The current balance of this fund, as of 12/31/25, is: **\$1,550.49**

### **Article 11 Add to Transfer Station Capital Reserve Fund**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$20,000 to be added to the Transfer Station Capital Reserve Fund previously established in 2015. This article is recommended by the Select Board (3 yes - 0 no). (Majority Vote Required) (**Tax Impact:** 7 cents per \$1,000)

## 2026 Alstead Warrant Articles and Information

### **Article 11 Additional Information about the Transfer Station CRF**

The Transfer Station has five capital equipment costs (two compactors, a backhoe / loader, a baler, and a waste-oil heater). The money in this fund is used for major repairs and replacement of capital equipment at the Transfer Station. The current balance of this fund, as of 12/31/25, is: **\$83,838.54**

### **Article 12 Add to Library Capital Reserve Fund**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$15,000 to be added to the Shedd-Porter Memorial Library Capital Reserve Fund previously established in 2010. Further, to name the Library Trustees as agents to expend from said fund. This article is recommended by the Select Board (3 yes - 0 no). (Majority vote required) (**Tax Impact:** 5 cents per \$1,000)

### **Article 12 Additional Information about the Library CRF**

From the Shedd-Porter Memorial Library Trustees: The Library is an older, historic building. Over time, the Trustees have been slowly updating infrastructure, while maintaining the building itself as funds permit. They are developing a capital improvement plan for the building to help with this process. Recently, the Library has experienced problems with moisture damage and the Trustees have hired building science experts to analyze how best to mitigate the moisture problems. This mitigation could be as straightforward as installing HVAC equipment or as complex as a roof replacement, sooner rather than later. Also note that the Library Trustees are asking to become the agents to expend (AtE) for this fund. They are doing this to be able to act quickly, if the current moisture problems become major leaks, and a major repair is needed immediately to prevent further damage. The current balance of this fund, as of 12/31/25, is: **\$101,165.13**

### **Article 13 Add to Ambulance Capital Reserve Fund**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$1,000 to be added to the Ambulance Capital Reserve Fund previously established in 1992. This article is recommended by the Select Board (3 yes - 0 no). (Majority vote required) (**Tax Impact:** less than 1 cent (\$0.0032) per \$1,000)

### **Article 13 Additional Information about the Ambulance CRF – Major repairs / replacement**

The Ambulance department has six capital equipment costs (three ambulances and the three heart monitors / defibrillators, one in each ambulance). The money in this fund is used for major repairs and replacement of the Ambulance capital equipment. The current balance of this fund, as of 12/31/25, is: **\$75,196.92**

### **Article 14 Add to Police Capital Reserve Fund**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$5,000 to be added to the Police Capital Reserve Fund previously established in 2011. This article is recommended by the Select Board (3 yes - 0 no). (Majority Vote Required) (**Tax Impact:** 2 cents per \$1,000)

### **Article 14 Additional Information about the Police CRF – Major repairs / replacement**

The Police department has two capital equipment costs– the two cruisers. One of the cruisers is due to be replaced next year (2027). The current balance of this fund, as of 12/31/25, is: **\$73,130.32**

## 2026 Alstead Warrant Articles and Information

### **Article 15 Add to Highway Capital Reserve Fund**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$215,000 to be added to the Highway Capital Reserve Fund previously established in 1988, \$75,000 to come from unassigned fund balance, and \$140,000 to come from taxation. This article is recommended by the Select Board (3 yes - 0 no). (Majority Vote Required) (**Tax Impact:** 46 cents per \$1,000)

### **Article 15 Additional Information about the Highway CRF – Road grader replacement**

The Highway department has seven capital equipment costs (a road grader, a front-end loader, two 10-wheel dump trucks, two 6-wheel dump trucks, and an F350 pickup truck). The 1994 road grader is next in line as a capital equipment cost. The current balance of this fund, as of 12/31/25, is: **\$206,290.81**

### **Article 16 Add to Vilas Pool Park Capital Reserve Fund**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$1 to be added to the Vilas Pool Capital Reserve Fund previously established in 2020. This article is recommended by the Select Board (3 yes - 0 no). (Majority Vote Required) (**Tax Impact:** 0 cents per \$1,000)

### **Article 16 Additional Information about the Vilas Pool Park CRF – Major repairs / replacement**

The Vilas Pool Park capital costs are major renovations to the buildings, the carillon, and the walking bridge. The current balance of this fund, as of 12/31/25, is: **\$11,220.97**

### **Article 17 Add to Fire Department Capital Reserve Fund**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$20,000 to be added to the Fire Department Capital Reserve Fund previously established in 1992. This article is recommended by the Select Board (3 yes - 0 no) (Majority Vote Required) (**Tax Impact:** 7 cents per \$1,000)

### **Article 17 Additional Information about the Fire Department CRF – Replacement**

The Fire department has five capital equipment costs (two engines, a tanker truck, a brush truck, and a UTV with a trailer). The money in this fund is used for the replacement of the Fire department capital equipment. The current balance of this fund, as of 12/31/25, is: **\$497,642.62**

### **Article 18 Add to Backup Generator Capital Reserve Fund**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$250 to be added to the Backup Generator Capital Reserve Fund previously established in 2024. This article is recommended by the Select Board (3 yes - 0 no). (Majority Vote Required) (**Tax Impact:** less than 1 cent (\$0.0008) per \$1,000)

### **Article 18 Additional Information about the Backup Generator CRF – Major repairs / replacement**

The Town owns four backup generators (police station & town offices, village station & town hall, East Alstead station, and highway department). The money in this fund is used for major repairs or replacement of the generators. The current balance of this fund, as of 12/31/25, is: **\$789.76**

### **Article 19 Add to Bridge Capital Reserve Fund**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$25,000 to be added to the Bridge Capital Reserve Fund previously established in 2012. This article is recommended by the Select Board (3 yes - 0 no). (Majority Vote Required) (**Tax Impact:** 8 cents per \$1,000)

## 2026 Alstead Warrant Articles and Information

### **Article 19 Additional Information about the Bridge CRF – Replacement of the upper Bell Hill Bridge**

This fund supports all the town-owned bridges, along with all the town-owned larger culverts. Each one is a potential capital expense (over \$10,000) to repair or replace. Only the bridges on, and culverts under the state roads (12a, 123, 123a) are not town-owned. The Select Board is already the agent to expend for this fund, which helps us pay for the temporary repair or replacement of a damaged bridge or culvert. As most of you know, the culprit causing the damage is most often a flood, which hardly ever waits for Town Meeting Voting Day. The current balance of this fund, as of 12/31/25, is: **\$96,284.66**

### **Article 20 Add to Police Department Body and Dash Camera Capital Reserve Fund**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$500 to be added to the Police Camera Capital Reserve Fund previously established in 2025. This article is recommended by the Select Board (3 yes - 0 no) (Majority Vote Required) (**Tax Impact:** less than 1 cent (\$0.0016) per \$1,000)

### **Article 20 Additional Information about the PD Body & Dash Camera CRF – Unfunded Mandate?**

The cost of this equipment is, quite frankly, prohibitive (in excess of \$10,000 for either type of camera). The State Legislature may soon make this equipment mandatory for all police officers and police vehicles. Experience tells us that unless the Federal Government provides grant money for this equipment, which they have not yet done, the Alstead taxpayers will have to pay for this equipment. The current balance of this fund, as of 12/31/25, is: **\$516.82**

### **Article 21 Fire Department Apparatus**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$10,000 for the purpose of purchasing an enclosed trailer to house and transport the fire department UTV, and to authorize the withdrawal of \$10,000 from the Fire Department Capital Reserve Fund created for that purpose in 1992. This article is recommended by the Select Board (3 yes - 0 no). (Majority Vote Required) (No amount to be raised from new taxation).

### **Article 21 Additional Information about the Fire Department UTV – Upgrade trailer**

The Fire Department needs to create more space in the East Alstead Station, now that the town is housing an Ambulance in that station. The current solution has the Utility Task Vehicle (UTV) on an open trailer parked between an Ambulance and the Tanker. This makes it awkward, slow, and hazardous to walk around and pull apparatus in or out of the station. Putting the UTV in an enclosed trailer parked outside solves this problem. The current balance of the Fire Department CRF as of 12/31/25, is: **\$497,642.62**

### **Article 22 Fire Department Turnout Gear**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$12,000 for the purpose of purchasing new sets of turnout gear. This article is recommended by the Select Board (3 yes - 0 no). (Majority Vote Required) (**Tax Impact:** 4 cents per \$1,000)

### **Article 22 Additional Information about the Fire Department Turnout Gear – Purchase two sets**

The town has been replacing two sets of turnout gear each year, because the older gear (pre-2024) contains the carcinogen PFAS.

## 2026 Alstead Warrant Articles and Information

### **Article 23 Fire Department Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$18,000 for the purpose of purchasing SCBA air packs. This article is recommended by the Select Board (3 yes - 0 no) (Majority Vote Required) (Tax Impact: 6 cents per \$1,000)

### **Article 23 Additional Information about the Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA)**

The town has been replacing two sets of SCBA gear each year, because that is about all we can afford. The older gear dates back to 2005 and is considered obsolete. The new gear now costs close to \$9,000 per set, not including the actual air tanks.

### **Article 24 Police Department Computers**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$5,500 for the purpose of purchasing computers. This article is recommended by the Select Board (3 yes - 0 no). (Majority Vote Required) (Tax Impact: 2 cents per \$1,000)

### **Article 24 Additional Information about the Police Department Computers – Two new computers**

The Police Department needs two new computers for the police station, because our current computers do not support the new software that the State now uses and are due to be replaced.

### **Article 25 Financial Services**

To see if the town will vote to approve a three-year contract with Municipal Resources, Inc. for fund accounting software and managed financial services, with each year of the cost items of said contract as follows:

Fiscal Year 2026 - \$26,600      Fiscal Year 2027 - \$35,400      Fiscal Year 2028 - \$35,400

And further to raise and appropriate the sum of \$26,600 for the current fiscal year. If this Article passes, the annual cost for 2027 and 2028 will be included in the operating and default budgets for those years. Should this article pass, the operating budget, **Article 05**, shall be reduced by \$26,600. This article is recommended by the Select Board (3 yes - 0 no). (Majority Vote Required) (No amount to be raised from new taxation)

### **Article 25 Additional Information about the MRI Financial Services contract**

As the officials tasked with managing the Town budget and looking after the prudential affairs of the Town, we consider this contract to be absolutely necessary and in the best interest of the Town moving forward. Over the past few years, the availability of employees and volunteers with the knowledge and talent to handle finance tasks in the municipal setting has been drastically reduced. Despite our best efforts, we have been unable to secure a CPA to perform several annual tasks. We have also been unable to hire personnel with the requisite expertise in accounting, bookkeeping, payroll, and municipal reporting to keep fulfilling our responsibilities in these areas in a timely and accurate manner. We have patched things together and managed to get through the 2025 tax rate setting process with the help of volunteer Mark Danahy, but this is not a sustainable or responsible way to handle finances. Turning to a professional managed financial services firm and fund accounting software will set Alstead up for consistency, accuracy, efficiency, and timely fulfillment of our obligations. It will also set up the proper internal controls and procedures necessary to prevent fraud, waste, and abuse, no matter who the elected officials or employees are in the future. There is no **Tax Impact** in 2026 because the money for this contract will be deducted from the Town operating budget.

## 2026 Alstead Warrant Articles and Information

### **Article 26 Design and Permit Dredging of Vilas Pool**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$1 for the purpose of designing and permitting a project to dredge Vilas Pool. This article is recommended by the Select Board (3 yes - 0 no). (Majority vote required) (**Tax Impact:** 0 cents per \$1,000)

### **Article 26 Additional Information about the dredging of Vilas pool**

We believe that we can get a permit from the NH Dept. of Environmental Services to dredge the Vilas pool at the park, and abiding by the restrictions in the permit, safely dredge the entire pool. This will make the pool park more attractive to swimmers and lessen the pressure on the dam. (Obviously, the sediment that we dredge out of the pool is heavier than the water that would replace it, lightening the load that the dam is holding back.) However, we will not be funding this project this year, regardless of the outcome of the vote.

### **Article 27 Appointed Town Treasurer**

To see if the town will vote to authorize the Select Board to appoint a town treasurer in accordance with RSA 41:26-e, rather than electing a treasurer. This article is recommended by the Select Board (3 yes - 0 no). (Majority vote required)

### **Article 27 Additional Information about the appointment of the Town Treasurer**

The Select Board believes that appointing a town treasurer will solve a couple of problems. We can offer the job to someone who does not live in Alstead, thus expanding the pool of prospective hires. Also, the job description will include the necessary education and work experience that the position requires for our town, to ensure that a fully qualified applicant is hired for the position.

### **Article 28 Remove Portion of Lot From Town Forest**

To see if the Town will vote to remove from Town Forest designation approximately 0.158 acres of Town-owned land located on the west side of Newell Pond Road, being part of Map 018 Lot 015, bordered generally by Lots 9, 16, and 17, and to return that portion to the general ownership and control of the Town. This article is recommended by the Select Board (3 yes - 0 no). (Majority vote required)

### **Article 28 Additional Information about the removal of a portion of a lot from the Town Forest**

The Alstead Conservation Commission has approved this sale. This is a very small piece of land that one of the abutters would like to add to their lot. The abutters assumed that they already owned this land, but took the correct action and verified that this is not the case. This has been a long and tedious process, during which the abutters have been very patient with us, and for that, we thank them!

## 2026 Alstead Warrant Articles and Information

### Article 29 Exemption for Deaf or Severely Hearing Impaired Persons

To see if the Town will adopt the provisions of RSA 72:38-b for an exemption for the deaf or severely hearing-impaired persons as follows: the exemption from assessed value for qualified taxpayers shall be \$15,000. To qualify, the person must:

1. meet the definition of a “deaf person or person with severe hearing impairment” under RSA 72:38-b (II);
2. be a resident of the State of New Hampshire for at least five (5) consecutive years prior to April 1 in which the exemption is sought;
3. occupy the property as his/her principal place of abode;
4. own the property (as defined in RSA 72:27(VI)) individually or jointly, or if owned by a spouse, they must have been married for at least five (5) consecutive years;
5. had in the calendar year preceding April 1 a net income from all sources of not more than \$37,000 if single and \$47,000 if married; and own net assets not in excess of \$94,500, excluding the value of the person’s residence as described in RSA 72:38-b (III).

This article is recommended by the Select Board (3 yes - 0 no). (Majority vote required) (No amount to be raised from new taxation).

### Article 29 Additional Information about the Exemption

This warrant article creates a tax exemption of \$15,000 for deaf or severely hearing-impaired persons, who meet the qualifications as defined by the State of New Hampshire. Alstead already has similar elderly, blind, and veteran tax exemptions. There is no **Tax Impact** for 2026, because the exemption has a “year lag” written into RSA 72:38-b. This delay is so the Town will know by the end of 2026 how many residents qualify for this exemption, so that the 2027 tax rate can be adjusted accordingly.

### Article 30 Sale of Bragg Lane

To see if the Town will vote on whether to hold a public hearing to consider selling the lot known as Bragg Lane, tax map 011 Lot 128. This article is **not** recommended by the Select Board (0 yes – 3 no). (Majority vote required)

### Article 30 Additional Information about a Possible Bragg Lane Sale

This warrant article is exploratory. The town-owned Bragg Lane property in Alstead Village is currently home to the Friendly Meals facility, a pavilion, and the Cold River Trail. The Select Board would like to keep this property.

### Article 31 Voting Tabulator Contract

To see if the town will vote to approve a five-year contract with Voting Works for a vote tabulator system, annual support services and election ballot programming and support, with each year of the cost items of said contract as follows:

Fiscal year 2026 - \$2000

Fiscal year 2027 - \$1500

Fiscal year 2028 - \$4000

Fiscal year 2029 - \$1500

Fiscal year 2030 - \$3000

And further to raise and appropriate the sum of \$6000 for the current year 2026 which includes the \$4000 purchase price of the system. This article is recommended by the Select Board (2 yes - 1 no). (Majority vote required) (**Tax Impact:** 2 cents per \$1,000)

## 2026 Alstead Warrant Articles and Information

### **Article 31 Additional Information about the Voting Works Contract**

Two of your Select Board members believe that the time is now right for our Town to turn to a tabulator system for scanning ballots and counting votes. The VotingWorks tabulator has been fully vetted and approved by the New Hampshire Secretary of State Department of Elections. This tabulator is more secure and accurate than our current system of hand counting and final reporting. This system does not and cannot connect to the internet.

You will still vote on a secret paper ballot, then feed the ballot directly into the tabulator to be scanned. The results are accurately recorded, including legibly written write-in votes. Your ballot is touched only by you, the voter. Requests to hand-count a voter's ballot will always be honored.

After the polls close, the tabulator system quickly generates the voting result reports that are submitted to the state. This process saves hours of hand counting votes and performing calculations by election officials.

It is important to note that there is currently an opportunity to purchase the VotingWorks system through a program offered by the office of the NH Secretary of State, which will pay \$3500 toward the \$7500 initial system cost, if purchase is made by June 30, 2026.

The proposed tabulator will allow the town to know all the results moments after the polls close, as opposed to our current system of not knowing the results for at least a couple of hours after the polls close. It will also add a level of security to the results, because no person will be examining your secret ballot unless a recount is required.

### **Article 32 Rescind SB 2**

To see if the Town will vote to rescind the provision of RSA 40:13 (known as SB 2). The Town of Alstead adopted SB 2 on Tuesday, March 12, 1996. If rescinded, the official ballot will no longer be used for voting on all questions, but only for the election of officers and certain other questions for which the official ballot is required by state law. This would cause the Town of Alstead to return to traditional Town Meeting format. This article is recommended by the Select Board (3-0). **(3/5 Super-Majority vote required)**

### **Article 32 Additional Information about Rescinding SB 2**

Both methods of "Town Meeting" are legitimate ways to conduct the prudent affairs of the town. We would still be required to hold the SB 2 vote on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday in March due to the School District being SB 2, but the traditional Town Meeting format would give us the ability to hold Town Meeting in April or May when the weather is nicer. Another advantage of a traditional Town Meeting is that the voters have the opportunity to ask questions and be better informed just before they vote.

The disadvantage of rescinding SB 2 is that, most likely, less people will participate at Town Meeting. Last year (2025), about 60 people were present at the February Deliberative Session, but over 400 voted at the March Official Town vote. A "Traditional Town Meeting" is basically just the Deliberative Session, with a little more work. Instead of just discussing and amending the various warrant articles, we would discuss, amend and vote on them, all in the same meeting and eliminate voting on them at the Official Town vote. The Official Town vote would just be to elect the town officers.

## 2026 Alstead Warrant Articles and Information

### **Article 33 Taxpayer Protection**

Do we call on the New Hampshire Legislature to protect local taxpayers by ensuring adequate state revenues for essential services, and by avoiding policies that shift costs onto local property taxpayers?

This question arises because recent state budgets have reduced or eliminated key revenue sources, forcing towns and counties to raise property taxes to maintain education, healthcare, county nursing homes, public safety, and infrastructure. These shifts burden working families, strain local budgets, limit flexibility, and undermine long-term community prosperity. A state budget that prevents cost-shifting and restores municipal revenue sharing eases the tax burden on local property taxpayers and strengthens communities.

Be it further resolved that the Alstead Town Clerk shall electronically send the results of this vote to the Governor and all members of the General Court within 30 days.

This Article is on the Ballot by Petition. (Majority Vote Required)

### **Article 33 Additional Information about Taxpayer Protection**

This is a non-binding warrant article. The New Hampshire State Legislature does not have to abide by any warrant article we pass, regardless of its content, but the Alstead Town Clerk is required by this Warrant Article to send the results electronically to the people named in the Warrant Article, if it passes.

### **Article 34 Education Freedom Accounts**

Shall we call on our legislators to protect taxpayers by requiring the Education Freedom Account program to provide fiscal and educational performance reports comparable to those required of public schools, and by limiting eligibility to families with demonstrated financial need?

This question is raised because state legislators recently removed all income limits from the Education Freedom Account program (vouchers), expanding it beyond its original purpose. These changes added tens of millions of dollars in costs while the program provides limited public information on how funds are spent or if educational standards are being met.

The voucher program is projected to cost \$110 million over the next two years, with no new revenue sources identified. This directs public funds to private education without reducing the expenses public schools are constitutionally required to cover, increasing pressure on local property taxes.

Be it further resolved that the Alstead Town Clerk shall electronically send the results of this vote to the Governor and all members of the General Court within thirty (30) days of this vote.

This Article is on the Ballot by Petition. (Majority Vote Required)

### **Article 34 Additional Information about Education Freedom Accounts**

Similar to Article 33, this Warrant Article is non-binding. The Alstead Town Clerk is required by this Warrant Article to send the results electronically to the people named in the Warrant Article, if it passes.

## 2026 Alstead Warrant Articles and Information

### **Article 35 To forbid the use of electronic vote tabulator and/or vote counting machines in the town of Alstead**

To see if the voters of the Town of Alstead will prohibit the use of electronic ballot counting devices in Alstead in all elections. This warrant article would expressly forbid the Alstead Town Moderator or any Alstead representative from making any expenditures or entering into any contracts or contract negotiations for the procurement, use or demonstration of electronic vote counting devices.

This Article is on the Ballot by Petition. (Majority Vote Required)

### **Article 35 Additional Information about forbid the use – Advisory only**

**RSA 656:40** specifically states that the New Hampshire State Legislature gives the Select Board of any town in NH the authority to decide how that town counts votes. The Alstead Legislative body (you, the voters) does not have the authority to overrule the NH State Legislature. Hence this Warrant Article is “Advisory only”. The Select Board can choose whether to abide by it.

### **Article 36 Requiring hand-counting of votes in all elections in the Town of Alstead**

To see if the voters of the Town of Alstead will respect the will of the voters of Alstead and continue Alstead’s long tradition of hand-counting votes in all elections.

This Article is on the Ballot by Petition. (Majority Vote Required)

### **Article 36 Additional Information about requiring hand-counting – Advisory only**

**RSA 656:40** specifically states that the New Hampshire State Legislature gives the Select Board of any town in NH the authority to decide how that town counts votes. The Alstead Legislative body (you, the voters) does not have the authority to overrule the NH State Legislature. Hence this Warrant Article is “Advisory only”. The Select Board can choose whether to abide by it.